

State Capitol Committee

June 16, 2016

1063 Building Artwork

Purpose: Information & Feedback

The purpose of this agenda item is to brief the State Capitol Committee (SCC) on the planning for artwork and graphics for the new building under construction at 1063 Capitol Way, and seek guidance and comment.

Three distinct items related to the building's art will be addressed:

- Commission of new art using Percent for Art Funds
- Relocation of GA Building Artwork
- Graphics and Way-finding Package

Commissioning of New Work of Art

Background

Our State's Art in Public Places (AIPP) program facilitates the acquisition, placement, and stewardship of artwork in state-funded building projects throughout Washington. The State Legislature established the program in 1974 to acquire artwork for K-12 public schools, colleges, universities, and state agencies, funded by $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the state's portion of construction costs. Today, the State Art Collection includes more than 4,500 artworks that are sited where people study, work, and live.

The AIPP budget for the building at 1063 Capitol Way will be \$287,000, which by law can only be expended for newly commissioned work(s).

Status

Under the guidance of the State Arts Commission and following their standard process, an Art Selection Committee was formed. The 7-member committee includes building tenants, a local artist, a member of the Arts Commission, and project director Jon Taylor. The group has met three times since late March.

The Art Selection Committee's role is to develop broad criteria and provide community context to a selected artist. The committee may recommend site options, selects an artist to create a concept proposal, reviews and provides comments, and ultimately is empowered to approve the concept.

The committee reviewed the full list of artists available for work of this scale on the rosters of the Arts Commission, narrowed the list in a subsequent meeting, and on April 27, selected Seattle artist Beliz Brother. Ms. Brother is an accomplished and recognized artist who has worked on several major installations of context-sensitive public art, including at Seattle City Hall and Harborview Medical Center.

Next Steps

Artist Beliz Brother has accepted the commission, and is already familiarizing herself with the building design. She will visit the construction site and meet with the Art Selection Committee in June and discuss with the committee the values and context statements developed in its earlier meetings.

The committee's preference is for a single work of interior or exterior art, rather than multiple smaller selections. Working with the building's architects, the artist will develop a concept proposal for review by the Selection Committee, followed by a final proposal.

The concept proposals and final proposal will receive CCDAC review and comment.

Relocation of GA Building Art

Background

Public works of art in the General Administration Building include the State Seal rendered in bronze on the exterior façade of the building, and a mosaic mural by artist Jean Cory Beall, commissioned for the building by the State Capitol Committee in 1956.

Given the probability of future demolition of the GA building, at its last meeting (held April 25 2016) the State Capitol Committee directed DES to determine what is required to protect the artwork in the GA building, through temporary or permanent relocation.

Designers of the 1063 building have considered these two works of art in their design, identifying locations for optimal placement in the new building.

Status

DES completed a study in January 2016 on the potential and cost for relocation of the Beall mosaic mural. The study concluded that the mural can be moved and offered cost estimates and methods for protection and de-installation. It is strongly preferred that the mural NOT be broken into sections, but be moved in one piece.

Another investigation completed May 9 determined methods and likely costs for removal of the State Seal.

The construction schedule for the 1063 building suggests the following opportunities for relocation of the mosaic mural, each successively more expensive as the project progresses toward completion:

- Fly the mural in by crane in mid-October to mid-November, 2016. At that time a 300-ton crane will be on the construction site to lift mechanical equipment to the roof. If flown in on this timeframe, moving costs are minimized.
- Bring the mural in on wheels, December 2016 - January 2017, before window-walls are installed; this installation could be delayed by two months if necessary with temporary wall closure.
- Remove newly installed window walls to bring the mural in on wheels after June 1, 2017, and re-install window-walls.

Next Steps

CCDAC members present at their June 6 meeting discussed offering a formal recommendation to the SCC supporting eventual demolition of the GA building and endorsing cost-effective and timely relocation of the building's artwork into the new building. A quorum was not present to act.

DES is investigating the possibility of private funding to support artwork relocation, and continuing to gather information to support an informed recommendation for the GA Building.

Graphics and Wayfinding Package

Background

Architects for the new building are working with graphics design firm SC Studios on graphics package to help the public to navigate the building, to lend a consistent and professional look and feel, and support a distinct style for the building. A themed framework for the graphics, that is reflective of Washington State values and culture is proposed. This is intended to add a layer of meaning and interest, making the visitor's experience of the building memorable, attractive, and friendly. The graphics package will touch all building signage and the naming of shared conference rooms, include images for large spaces at the elevator core, and reflect state-wide themes.

Status

SC Studios developed an initial concept for building graphics based on a thematic framework reflecting "Washington Ideals" in five areas, one designated for each building level from Ground through Fourth Floors. The selected ideals or themes are Exploration, Discovery, Cultivation, Industry, and Preservation. These themes would be conveyed in the graphics and wayfinding on each floor with images, individuals, and quotes.

Preservation professional and historian Michael Sullivan has been engaged to review and support this work. Michael will bring his professional expertise in State History to the identification and interpretation of themes that are the most relevant in expressing the values of this generation, in this location, and for these tenant programs. Michael is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Washington Tacoma and serves on the grant committee for Humanities Washington and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Next Steps

SC Graphics is collaborating with Mr. Sullivan to refine the concept proposal.

CCDAC will review and comment before a final package is accepted.